

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 184739

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN

SUBJECT: LAWYERS LIST FOR MEXICO CITY

REF: MEXICO 13021 AND PREVIOUS

1. DEPARTMENT, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL ADVISER AND CONGEN MCANINCH, AUTHORIZES ATTACHMENT OF FOLLOWING NOTICE TO NEW ATTORNEY LIST: QUOTE THIS LIST CONTAINS THE NAMES OF ATTORNEYS SPECIALIZING IN CRIMINAL LAW WHO HAVE INDICATED AN INTEREST IN DEFENDING AMERICAN CLIENTS. IN PREPARING THIS LIST THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN MINDFUL OF THE PROBLEM OF "COYOTES", PERSONS CLAIMING TO BE OR TO REPRESENT INFLUENTIAL ATTORNEYS WHO CAN ARRANGE A QUICK RELEASE FROM JAIL IN EXCHANGE FOR A LARGE AMOUNT OF CASH, BUT WHOSE SUCCESSES ARE LIMITED TO DRAINING FRIENDS AND FAMILIES OF THEIR RESOURCES. NO INDIVIDUAL BELIEVED BY THE EMBASSY TO BE A COYOTE OR ASSOCIATED WITH THE COYOTE TRADE HAS BEEN INCLUDED.

(NEW PARAGRAPH, CONTINUE QUOTE)

ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY HAS USED CARE IN COMPILING THIS

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LIST, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE OR OTHERWISE ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OR INTEGRITY OF THE PERSONS OR INDIVIDUALS WHOSE NAMES ARE LISTED. WE ALSO

WISH TO POINT OUT THAT MANY REPUTABLE CRIMINAL LAWYERS HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO BE INCLUDED ON THIS LIST; CONSEQUENTLY, NO NEGATIVE CONNOTATION CAN BE DRAWN FROM THE ABSENCE OF A

NAME FROM THE LIST. IF YOU HAVE CHOSEN A MEXICAN ATTORNEY WHOSE NAME IS NOT ON THE LIST, THE EMBASSY WILL, UPON REQUEST, VERIFY THAT HE IS LICENSED BY THE (NAME OF APPROPRIATE LICENSING AUTHORITY) AND THAT NO SUBSTANTIATED COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED ABOUT HIM WITH THE EMBASSY BY FORMER CLIENTS. THE EMBASSY IS PRECLUDED BY THE PRIVACY ACT FROM RELEASING ANY SUCH INFORMATION WHICH PERTAINS TO ATTORNEYS WHO ARE CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES. UNQUOTE.

2. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION FROM FILES KEPT ON LAWYERS IN MEXICO WOULD LIKELY VIOLATE PRIVACY ACT INSOFAR AS FILES CONCERN AMERICAN CITIZENS OR ALIENS LAWFULLY ADMITTED TO U.S. FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE. DISCLAIMER DOES NOT SERVE TO CIRCUMVENT PRIVACY ACT.

3. ALTHOUGH PRIVACY ACT LEAVES ISSUE UNCLEAR, THERE EXISTS SERIOUS POSSIBILITY OF ILLEGALITY WITH RESPECT TO DISCLOSURE OF FILES (OR INFORMATION CONTAINED IN FILES) PERTAINING EITHER TO LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS OF WHICH USC'S OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS ARE MEMBERS OR TO INDIVIDUAL ALIEN MEMBERS OF SUCH PARTNERSHIPS. DEPARTMENT THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT EMBASSY NOT PERMIT ACCESS TO SUCH FILES AT THIS TIME. IF EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT THIS RESTRICTION SERIOUSLY HAMPERS EMBASSY'S ABILITY TO RENDER EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE TO CITIZENS WHO REQUIRE GUIDANCE INSELECTING UNCLASSIFIED

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AN ATTORNEY, POLICY WILL BE REVIEWED BY DEPARTMENT.

4. FILES ON ATTORNEYS WHO ARE NOT USC'S, ALIENS LAWFULLY ADMITTED TO THE U.S. FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE OR MEMBERS OF LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS OF WHICH ONE OR MORE USC'S OR RESIDENT ALIENS ARE MEMBERS MAY BE SHOWN OR DISCLOSED TO PERSONS SEEKING LAWYERS IN MEXICO WITHOUT VIOLATING PRIVACY ACT. CHRISTOPHER

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